

HATTORI et al.
Appln. No. 10/656,363
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-8 and 10-15 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Claims 14 and 15 are new. The subject matter of cancelled Claim 9 has been added to Claim 1. New Claims 14 and 15 reflect the scope of Claims 10 and 11, respectively, before entry of the Amendment. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 2000-281337 to Fujiwara et al. ("JP '337").

Further, Claims 5 and 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '337 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,580,496 to Yukinobu et al. ("Yukinobu '496").

Furthermore, Claims 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '337 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,051,166 to Fujiwara et al. ("Fujiwara '166").

Without admitting that the rejection is correct, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art fails to disclose, teach or suggest the method presently recited in Claims 1-8 and 10-15. At page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 9-11 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." The subject matter of Claim 9 has been added to Claim 1. Claim 14 reflects the scope of Claim 10, before entry of the Amendment. Claim 15 reflects the scope of Claim 11, before entry of the Amendment.

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Further, Claims 2-8 and 10-13 depend from Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8 and 10-13 are patentable over the cited art for at least for the same reason as with Claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

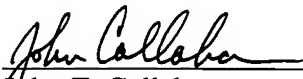
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